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Investment Club Members Hear from International Experts at Global Asset Conference

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BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— Four Illinois Wesleyan University Investment Club members heard perceptions from internationally renowned finance experts at the recent Global Asset Management Education (G.A.M.E.) V Forum in New York City. The event attracted more than 1,200 students from 140 colleges and universities.

Students had the opportunity to meet and hear insights from speakers such as Abby Joseph Cohen, senior investment strategist and president of the Global Markets Institute at Goldman Sachs; Emanuella Enenajor, senior Canada and U.S. economist, Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research; Richard Yamarone, senior economist at Bloomberg Brief, and other experts.

Economics major Brigitta Jakob '17 said her favorite session featured several experts offering insights on the global economy. Merrill Lynch's Enenajor said world population trends are mostly downward, with the United Nations projecting Europe declining after 2020, and the world after 2050. She also noted that smaller populations might lead to labor shortages, which could give workforces leverage to demand higher wages.

Another panelist, Robert Johnson, director of economic analysis at Morningstar, Inc., said the strong dollar could affect corporate profits and real wages aren't growing very much. He is also concerned about demographics. "Population growth and productivity drive economic growth," he said. He agreed that labor scarcity "could be a big theme."

Jakob said panelists also shared personal stories about their career trajectories and gave advice to students on how to embark on their own journeys.

IWU students also attending the conference were economics and accounting double major Duc Nguyen '17, financial services major Tyler Stamper '15 and accounting and economics double major Gindy Nguyen '16.



(from left) Duc Nguyen, Tyler Stamper, Brigitta Jakob, and Gindy Nguyen at the Global Asset Management Conference in New York.

By Kim Hill